

10/687,582
C14-163313M/YAH (NGB.039Cont)

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since no new claims or issues are presented and the only claim amendments are the cancellation of the rejected claims, thereby placing all remaining claims into condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 7-11, 17, 22, and 23, all of the claims pending in the present Application, have been indicated as allowable.

In the latest Office Action, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 07-160203 to Satoru et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,339,696 to Chan et al. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Chan, further in view of US Patent 6,144,358 to Narayanaswamy et al. Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 5,075,686 to Shigemura. Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Shigemura, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of Narayanaswamy. Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru, further in view of US Patent 6,144,296 to Ishida et al. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Satoru/Ishida, further in view of Narayanaswamy.

Although Applicants maintain that the rejections currently of record fail to meet the initial burden of a *prima facie* rejection under current patent law, the rejected claims have been canceled to expedite prosecution and permit the allowable claims to proceed immediately to an allowance.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 2, 7-11, 17, 22, and 23, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance,

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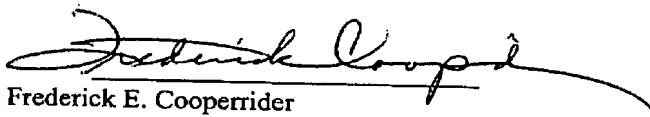
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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

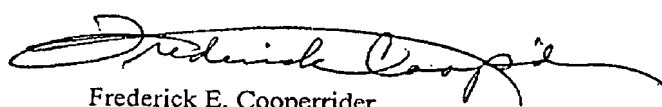
Date:

07/25/07
Frederick E. Cooperrider
Reg. No. 36,769

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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner L. Shapiro on July 25, 2007.


Frederick E. Cooperrider
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